

REDEMPTION CHURCH

He Saves Us | Week 2: *The Paralytic*

BIG POINT

.....
This story reminds us that all men are helpless apart from the Gospel. There are many false gospels out there claiming they can help and are the solution to man's biggest problem, but they aren't.

Government, education, economics, entertainment, technology/AI are not the answers! There is only one answer: **the world must come to Christ.**

THE CROWD

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Mark 2 reminds us that the "crowd" likes to...

...gather, and go where the popular people are,
...blend in,
...love the "flavor of the day,"
...**prohibit people from coming to Christ**, and
...run for the hills when it gets hard (*thousands dwindled to 120 by Pentecost*).

The crowd will push the sick out of the way to get closer to the "star" (v4). They want to be entertained, but disappear as soon as it gets difficult.

We do NOT want to be "the crowd"!

In this second week of the "He Saves Us" series, we turn our attention to the paralytic from Mark 2. Again, we look at a real story of Jesus encountering, "getting," and saving real people.

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. ³And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. ⁴And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. ⁵And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk?' ¹⁰But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." ¹²And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" —Mark 2:1-12

Notes:

Let's take a closer look at the 3 groups of people in this story (the crowd, scribes, and friends), the man at the center of the story (the paralytic), and Jesus (who brings the Gospel).

The Paralytic: While we learned this week that we want to be the "friends" in this story, we also recognize that we were all once the paralyzed man. What can we learn from him and his part here?

He was helpless. Incapable of getting to Christ himself, he was brought by his friends (and his faith). This reminds us we are all helpless apart from the Gospel. There is only one answer – Christ. Why? Because humanity is *that* helpless!

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked..." Ephesians 2:1

The Scribes

Verses 6-10 reveal enough to know we don't want to be these guys either! Notice that, despite being the religious leaders of the day, they were angry and had completely missed the man's real problem. They deny the deity and authority of Christ. From this moment on, they hate Jesus. Like the false "He Gets Us" gospel, they were ok with Him being a 'good teacher' but not His claim to be God or that He could transform lives.

We don't want to be scribes!

The Friends

The paralytic was blessed with friends who had faith (v5). They removed a roof to get him to Jesus –ultimately playing a role in his healing. Friends stick around long after the crowd. Friends have the tenacity to get others to Jesus. They'll pray invite, drag, and/or annoy you to Him! True friends realize they too were once in need (see [Eph. 2:1-10](#)), and what's on the other side and love enough they will do what it takes for others to walk in freedom.

We want to be the friends in this story!

Now What?

First experience redemption and then live in freedom.

Next, tell your friends!

There is no Gospel movement until we feel this helpless –helplessly dead in sin. Sometimes the crowd gets in our way, but we need to recognize our need for Him and get past them to Jesus.

2. He had faith. The story says that when He saw "their faith" (which included the man in question and his friends), He moved. **"For by grace you have been saved through faith..."** (Eph 2:8) We need faith that Christ can do what He says He can do!

Our faith isn't random, it's rooted in something very good. Matthew's account of this story starts with "be of good cheer." He had GREAT news. When everything was desperate and helpless, Jesus showed up. That's what FAITH does –takes what is helpless and makes it hopeful, what's impossible and makes it possible, and what is unchangeable and changes it.

*Like prayer, faith should move from the inside out (begin with an inward focus that, as we are transformed, moves outward).

"By faith" the mountain was moved, Abraham blindly obeyed, Moses was hidden and became a redeemer, people crossed the Red Sea...

"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Hebrews 11:6

Do you have a hopeless situation? HAVE FAITH!

3. He was completely transformed. **"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home."** (v11) Paul says it like this, **"you are made alive with Christ."** (Eph. 2:5) Death-to-life is a complete transformation! Jesus saw what the religious leaders missed: He knew what the real problem was –SIN & our need to be rescued/redeemed/transformed.

The problem with a "He Gets Us" gospel is that it doesn't understand the problem. Instead of embracing the Gospel and rejecting sin, it preaches that we just need to be accepted "as is".

Where does this end up? How does this plan end?

We stay the same and aren't changed or redeemed.

Now look at Jesus' Gospel. He gets that the man has a need, but also knows what the real problem is. So He forgives sin, and then He heals the external. Imagine if Jesus said, **"I get your paralysis, but stay that way and worship me. Your faith has made you the same."** What a powerless gospel!

The Gospel is not, **"I came to Christ, He got me, and I stayed the same."**

The Gospel is, "I came to Christ, He saved me, and now everything has changed."